in 11 towns of Madhya Pradesh has been approved at a cost of Rs. 101.2 crore under the National River Conservation Plan. Works such as interception, diversion and treatment of sewage flowing into the river, low cost toilets, crematoria, river front development, afforestation and public participation are covered under this scheme. Till date, 53 projects have been sanctioned under this Plan in Madhya Pradesh at a cost of Rs. 43.40 crore. Out of these, 27 projects have been completed. An amount of Rs. 28.10 crore has been released to the State Government for these works so far.

(b) As on date, a total of 189 drains are opening directly into these seven rivers located in the 11 towns.

Dumping grounds for toxic products

2179. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the world is getting rid of the toxic products, Government are promoting the waste incineration through special subsidies and the country is fast becoming the dumping ground for the world's most toxic products;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while the world over chemicals have been banned, these are being still used in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to prevent the country from becoming a dumping grounds for toxic products?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There are no subsidies for promoting incineration of toxic wastes in the country. In respect of energy recovery from municipal solid wastes and industrial wastes, there is a scheme under the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) of the Government of India, which provides for subsidy on term loan to reduce the interest rate to 7.5% subject to a ceiling per megawatt of electricity generated of Rs. 2.00 crores in respect of urban waste projects and Rs. 1.50 crores in respect of Industrial waste projects. This scheme applies to all municipal solid wastes and industrial wastes conversion technologies such as biomethanation, pelletisation,

gassification, pyrolysis including incineration. MNES also has a scheme providing for capital subsidy upto 50% of capital cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 3.00 crores per megawatt of energy produced for setting up Demonstration Projects, one in each State, for various waste processing and treatment technologies.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, assigned the preparation of a "State of the Art Report on chemicals and products whose production and import/export have been banned by other countries but continue to be produced and used in India" to the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), New Delhi. NISTADS has submitted the draft final report to the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 23rd July, 2001. The manufacture, use and import and export of toxic chemicals is regularly reviewed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment and Forests and decision to phase out toxic products is taken keeping in view their benefits and potential risks to human health and environment.

(d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken following steps to prevent the country from becoming a dumping ground for toxic products:

(i) Benzidine and benzidine based dyes (47 numbers) have been banned since 1993.

(ii) Azodyes (70 numbers) have been banned since 1997.

(iii) Hazardous wastes containing arsenic, cyanide, mercury, beryllium, selenium, chromium (hexavalent), thallium, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, PCB, PCT, etc. have been banned since 1997.

(iv) Under the Insecticis Act, 1968, Ministry of Agriculture has banned or restricted nearly 30 pesticides. Some of these are included in the Stockholm Convention dealing with persistent organic pollutants. The Ministry of Health has also banned a number of food additives under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.